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W.R. CRIMES

Interrogation of Ernest Alexander Lloyd, CKX 86448 RN.L/S. by
NX31499 Lt. K. M. Dixon, regarding atrocities by the Japanese against
Australia Nurses.

- (1) I was a member of the crew of the SS "Vynerbrook" which was sunk off
Bangka Island on 14th Feb. 42.
- (2) I reached the shore in the company with A/B. Cake and L/S. Noble,
some civilians and about 5 nurses.
- (3) We slept that night with other survivors on the beach. There were about
40 or 50 there including about 20 Australian nurses in charge of a Matron.
- (4) Next morning the First Officer of the "Vynerbrook" left to contact the
Japanese. A party of about 10 to 15 civilian women and children also Cake
and Noble left to go ahead.
- (5) The First Officer came back with a party of about 14 Japs, in charge of
an Officer or NCO. wearing a sword.
- (6) The japs separated us into three groups.
 - (a) Servicemen.
 - (b) Civilian men and women.
 - (c) Nurses.
- (7) I was with the group of servicemen and we were marched a short distance
along the beach. Just out of sight of the others.
- (8) The Japs set us a machine gun and clearly indicated that they intended
shooting us.
- (9) Several of us made a break for the water and were fired on. I was
wounded but was carried out to sea by the tide. I later struggled back
ashore and into the jungle in the early afternoon.
- (10) I passed out. On coming to later it was daylight. I walked along the
beach and came upon the bodies of the group of servicemen some of whom I
recognised.
- (11) Further along the beach-where we had left them-I came across the bodies
of the nurses (about 10) and after that the civilians. All appeared to have
bayoneted or shot.
- (12) I went back into the jungle and about ten days later I made my way into
Muntok and surrendered to the Japs.]

(13) I was placed in a P.W. hospital and there met:-

- (a) An Englishman whom I remembered as one of the servicemen's group on the beach.
- (b) An American whom I recognised as one of the main group on the beach.
- (c) An Australian nurse whom I did not recognise.

Questions by the Interrogating Officer.

Q. 1. Have you any means of indentifying any of the Australian nurses?

A. No.

Q. 2. Have you any means of indentifying any of the party of Japs or their units. Did you see any of them again?

A. No. But they were Army and not of the other services.

Q.3. Do you know the name of the Englishman.

A. Yes. KINSEY Pte. He died at Muntok.

Q. 4. Do you know the name of the American.

A. No. But I saw him about July or August 42. with the civilian internees in Palembang.

Q. 5. Do you know the names of any of the Jap Units in Bangka Is. in Feb. 42.?

A. No.

Q. 6. Before the Jap opened fire on you did you hear shots or other sounds from the area where you left the nurses and civilians?

A. No. But I heard shots after I was in the water.

Interrogation concluded.

To the best of my belief the foregoing particulars are correct.

WITNESS (Signed)

(Signed)

NX31499 K.M.Dixon, Lt.
Interrogating Officer,
2nd Aust P.W. Contact & Inquiry Unit. AIF.

WITNESS (Signed)

NX53123 2/15 Field Art. Regt.

Interrogation conducted at Sungei Ron P.W.Camp, Palembang on 18th Sept. 45.

Certified true copy of original affidavit

/s/ R. B. Lumbe, Lt. Colonel
A.G War Crimes
H.Q. AIFSE.

18th April 1946

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